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NOTES.

IN A LITTLE book, "Our Children of the Slums,"* Annie Bronson King has told eight short stories in a very interesting style. The children who figure in the stories are taken from the saloon, the home of the Russian Jew, the tobacco factory, the *crèche*, and the tenement house. These touching little stories contain as much, if not more, instruction in regard to the life of the struggling poor than the average reports of charities that issue from an official bureau, and by their appeal to our sympathies may, perhaps, accomplish as much good.

ARTHUR MACDONALD divides his work on "Criminology"† into three main parts: General and special criminology and bibliography. In the first part the author summarizes the opinions of Lombroso and followers as respects the physical side of crime. The author's work shows diligence, but he is no more convincing than the writers he follows. Special criminology is a somewhat diffuse record of certain criminals whom the author has questioned and whose records he has examined. The bibliography seems fairly complete, and the most systematic thing between the covers of the book.

IT IS a pleasure to look over the pages of Mr. Ropes' account of the campaign of Waterloo.‡ It is an eminently scholarly and discriminating account of the most generally interesting, perhaps, of all campaigns. By a plan of separating the critical notes from the body of the text the ordinary reader may avoid detail which can hardly interest him, and which is still requisite in a complete account of many controverted points. Little or nothing is said of the incidents of battle. The movements of the several armies and the purposes and mistakes of their leaders, Napoleon, Ney, Grouchy, Blücher and Wellington are treated in a clear and convincing fashion. It is not hard to see why the French lost in the final engagement. It is the author's conviction that although Grouchy would have prevented the defeat of Napoleon had he promptly advanced, he ought not to be considered the sole cause of the defeat.

* "OUR CHILDREN OF THE SLUMS." By ANNIE BRONSON KING. Pp. 54. New York and St. Paul: D. D. Merrill Company, 1892.

† "CRIMINOLOGY," by ARTHUR MACDONALD New York: Funk & Wagnalls Company, 1893.

‡ "THE CAMPAIGN OF WATERLOO," a Military History, by JOHN CODMAN ROPES. Pp. xlii 401. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1893.

MR. LECKY, in a charming little essay,* which Messrs. Appleton and Company have made accessible to the American reader, gives a brief, clear statement of his views on the value of historical study. He sensibly rejects both extreme views of history, as on the one hand determined solely by an indefinitely long series of deep, general causes and on the other as the result of an individual activity or of accident. The study of the slow development of institutions and of violent revolutions, each have their peculiar educational value. "The power of realizing and understanding types of character very different from our own is not," he thinks, "an English quality, and a great many mistakes in governing the nations come from this deficiency." "He who has learned to understand the true character and tendencies of many succeeding ages is not likely to go very far wrong in estimating his own." Mr. Lecky, from the well-known range of his studies, is peculiarly well fitted to deal with this somewhat neglected topic and no one can lay down this little book without feeling that he has distinctly gained by its perusal.

IN A LITTLE book, "Commercial Crises of the Nineteenth Century,"† Mr. H. M. Hyndman has undertaken to enlighten his critics concerning the causes of the regularly recurring industrial crises. The introduction and the last chapter of the work deal with causes and remedies, while chapters one to nine describe the nine principal periods of business depression that have occurred during the present century. Crises were unknown before the advent of capitalistic production, *i. e.*, the system of producing articles of social use for profit by means of paid laborers. The causes of industrial depressions are independent of population, forms of government, extent of territory, restricted or inflated currency, gold or silver standard, any special system of banking, or of protection and free trade; but are the result of the "antagonism between social production for social purposes and individual appropriation and exchange for individual profit." The thing that must be done to avoid crises is to make appropriation and exchange, as well as production, social. This can only be brought about by the action of the State in its different forms, it alone can "reduce to order the existing anarchy" and "establish an equilibrium between production, consumption and general distribution for the benefit of all."

* "THE POLITICAL VALUE OF HISTORY," by W. E. H. LECKY, LL. D., D. C. L., Pp. 57. New York: D. Appleton & Co. 1893.

† "COMMERCIAL CRISES OF THE NINETEENTH CENTURY," By H. M. HYNDMAN. The Social Science Series, Pp. 174. London: Swan Sonnenschein & Co. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1892.

This is manifestly not a new doctrine, and the critics of Mr. Hyndman and other socialists will doubtless fail to see wherein they have been much instructed. In spite of the assurance to the contrary on the part of the author they will continue to see grave difficulties in the way of the introduction of socialism, and will hardly assent to the doctrine "that capitalism has outlived its usefulness and must be replaced by another and higher form of industrial and social organization."

THE BERING SEA ARBITRATION,* by Dr. James C. Welling, treats, its sub-title indicates, of "Pelagic sealing judicially considered according to a particular analogy of municipal law." This analogy is found in the property rights of individuals, in animals which, such as bees and pigeons, have the habit of returning to a certain spot. During their migrations the property right of the owner does not cease. The principle is common to the Roman and the Common law. It is, as Dr. Welling shows, peculiarly applicable to seals, from whatever point of view we consider them. If the analogy be allowed, the *mare clausum* argument becomes unnecessary, though it is not impeached, for, as the doctrine of *mare letrium* is formulated by leading writers, it refers to productivity of the sea irrespective of the labor of man. The main discussion is as to character of the animals, whether they are to be regarded as absolutely wild and the property of him who takes them, or come under the analogy to which allusion has been made. That the latter is the case, and that the analogy should be followed, is well set forth in the pamphlet. Whether or not there is precedent for it is a question of fact, but that such a recognition of it is called for by all the facts in the premises, and by the dictates of international morality which should crystallize in international law, is strongly urged.

IN connection with the weekly edition of *The Summary*, published at the New York State Reformatory, a twenty page monthly, also named *The Summary*, has been established. The first issue was in February. The aim of the weekly is to furnish the inmates of the Reformatory with proper current news and with good helpful literature. The monthly is intended for circulation outside of Elmira and beyond the State boundary, and contains, in the main, short articles on penology, by specialists. The monthly will be of much usefulness and do much to promote the reformation of the criminal classes by bringing methods of reform before the public.

* 18 pp. Washington : The University Press, 1893.

NUMBER ONE, volume one, of *The Bulletin of the Christian Social Union in the United States and Canada* appeared last month. Dr. Richard T. Ely, of Madison, Wisconsin, is the editor. The Christian Social Union in the United States and Canada was established two years ago on the lines of the English Society, and with the same principles as the basis of its work. These principles are :

1. "To claim for the Christian Law the ultimate authority to rule social practice."
2. "To study in common how to apply the moral truths and principles of Christianity to the social and economic difficulties of the present time."
3. "To present Christ in practical life as the Living Master and King, the enemy of wrong and selfishness, the power of righteousness and love."

The movement is, thus, one on the part of churchmen to bring about a closer relationship between the church and economic reform by means of the circulation of literature and the organization of local societies of Christians for the study of economic and moral questions. The Right Reverend F. D. Huntington, of Syracuse, New York, is the president of the Society, and Dr. Ely is the secretary. Fifteen local "Branches" have been organized thus far. The March *Bulletin* contains a "*Course of Study on Socialism*," The outline consists of an analysis of Schäffle's "*Quintessence of Socialism*," with numerous references to other works for purposes of further study. The other special feature of the *Bulletin* is an article by Mr. David Kinley of the University of Wisconsin, on "*The Ethical Justification of Labor Legislation*." The *Bulletin* does not claim to be a magazine, but aims to disseminate literature among the members of the Society and keep the various "Branches" informed concerning each other.

PROFESSOR WOODROW WILSON contributes to the April issue of the *Review of Reviews* a critical estimate of Mr. Cleveland's new Cabinet. After considering the President's policy in the matter of selection, each member and his fitness for his respective functions is discussed. Dwelling upon the fact that the present Cabinet is not composed, with one striking exception, from party leaders, Mr. Wilson observes : "Sooner or later we must recognize in the Cabinet the President's responsible party council, and must require our Presidents, not by hard and fast constitutional provisions, but by the more flexible while equally imperative mandates of public opinion, operating through the medium of the Senate, to call to the chief places in the departments representative party men who have accredited themselves for

such functions by long and honorable public service." The writer deprecates the rigid separation between the legislative and executive branches of our Government. "We risk every degree of friction and disharmony rather than hazard the independence of branches of the Government which are helpless without each other. What we need is harmonious, consistent, responsible party government, instead of a wide dispersion of function and responsibility, and we can get it only by connecting the President as closely as may be with his party in Congress. The natural connecting link is the Cabinet."

THERE are few subjects on which the public interest is more centered than on the treatment of criminals, and Samuel J. Barrows has performed a good service by his description of "The Massachusetts Prison System" in the *New England Magazine* for March. The article describes at some length the two reformatory institutions—The Sherborn Prison for women, South Framingham and the Concord Reformatory for men; and then speaks of the Massachusetts State Prison, and the Boston city institutions at Deer Island. To the success of reform in prisons the most essential requisite is an "all-pervading and all-controlling personality" on the part of the superintendent. This the Sherborn Prison has in Mrs. Ellen C. Johnson, whose administration is most successful. Prisoners are divided into four classes and promotions are made on a system of credits. The practice of binding out female convicts as domestic servants has been so successful that it has become impossible to fill all applications. School is held every day from one to three o'clock. Mrs. Johnson has also shown that the operation of a farm and a dairy in connection with the prison for women is not only financially and otherwise possible but that the influences are strong over the moral development of the inmates. The Concord Reformatory is modeled after the well-known one at Elmira, New York; the classification of the prisoners is into three classes, the same as at Elmira, and the school work likewise includes both book study and industrial training, though still in a less comprehensive degree than at the New York Reformatory. The most distinctive feature of the Concord methods is the establishment of social, literary, scientific and moral societies. This plan of improving the prisoners, for which the late Gardiner Tufts was responsible, seems to have worked well, and Mr. Barrows is convinced that the social plan is preferable to the separate system followed by the Eastern Penitentiary in Philadelphia. "Of the Massachusetts State Prison," says Mr. Barrows, "nothing may here be said except that it needs a thorough reorganization and reconstruction." The Boston city institutions at Deer Island also are greatly in need of improvement.

Perhaps the feature of the Massachusetts prison system that may most profitably be studied is the Prison Commission. It is composed of five members, two of whom are women. They receive no remuneration except payment for traveling expenses and the salary of a secretary. Much of the improvement that has taken place in prisons since the establishment of the Commission in 1879 has been due to its work. Mr. Barrows calls attention to the ways in which the county prisons of Massachusetts need reforming; but for lack of space omits to tell about the way in which Massachusetts is trying to reform juvenile offenders.

THE PENNSYLVANIA TAX CONFERENCE represents a unique method of instituting tax reforms. It was not appointed by the legislature and acts under no authority but its own. Its originator was Mr. J. A. Price, member of the State Senate. After the defeat of the tax bill of 1891, he proposed that the various interests which contribute the State revenues should come together voluntarily to formulate a new plan of tax reform. Under his initiative a call was issued for a meeting of representatives of six of the great State interests, viz.: Agriculture, transportation, commerce and manufactures, labor, trade and the county commissioners. The meeting was held at Harrisburg in February, 1892, and the conference there organized. It was believed that if a tax bill could be framed which was acceptable to the interests represented there would be little difficulty in securing its passage by the legislature. What success the conference will meet with remains to be seen. In the meantime it has nominated from its own members a commission for the purpose of examining and reporting upon the value of the various classes of property in the State, and another to examine the tax laws of all the States. An interesting report has been published by each of these commissions.

The commission on valuation, of which Mr. Jos. D. Weeks, of Pittsburgh, is chairman, undertook to ascertain the actual value of all classes of property in the State. It relied largely on estimates made through the assistance of special agents sent into the different counties. For certain classes of property, however, another estimate was made on the basis of insurance reports. The latter gave the larger total which the commission accepted as being more nearly correct than the other. The total value of all property in the State, as thus estimated, is \$9,692,125,553. The report contains, furthermore, interesting statistics and information regarding the value of the different classes of property embraced in the above total, the amount of taxes, State and local, assessed on different classes of property taxed and the amount of property exempt from taxation.

The other report, that of the committee to examine the tax laws, presents in tabulated form a summary of the principal features of the laws in different States. The committee favors the "American plan of raising revenue for State and local purposes by means of an *ad valorem* tax on property," and believes that the system adopted in other States of taxing all property at a uniform rate is preferable to the Pennsylvania plan of selecting certain classes of property as objects of taxation and thus exempting all other property.

MUCH has been written about the Labor Bureaus of the United States and their functions, but probably no better account has been given than the testimony of Dr. Elgin R. L. Gould before the English Labor Commission in December last. Clothed in the somewhat unpalatable form of question and answer, it is not altogether easy reading, but it is a valuable record of facts. They are stated with clearness, accuracy and remarkable completeness. It is a tribute to the impression made upon the commission by Dr. Gould's evidence that the English government has since established a labor bureau along the lines suggested by Dr. Gould.

THE ANNUAL MEETING of the National Civil Service Reform League was held April 25 and 26, at the City Club, New York.

President Schurz delivered the annual address, April 25, at 8 p. m., in the Assembly Hall of Madison Square Garden.

April 26, papers were read by Charles J. Bonaparte on "The Use of Patronage to Influence Legislation;" by W. D. Foulke on "Platforms and Promises;" and by C. N. Gregory on "The Corrupt Use of Money in Politics." Resolutions were adopted reaffirming the principles of the league, and expressing regret that President Cleveland still permitted the allotment of fourth-class post-offices as prizes of political service.

A committee was appointed on the erection of a memorial to the late George William Curtis.

The meeting closed with a banquet at Hotel Savoy, at which brief speeches were made by Rev. Dr. Lyman Abbott, Carl Schurz, Everett P. Wheeler, Edward Cary, of the *New York Times*; Professor Edmund J. James, of the University of Pennsylvania; L. B. Swift, F. E. Leupp, W. W. Vaughn, F. M. Loomis and others. Mr. Loomis urged that a State association be organized in New York. Professor James pointed out the need for educational and scientific work in order that candidates for office may be thoroughly prepared for their duties, and thus, by their efficiency, prove the superiority of the reform over the spoils system of appointment.